

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 03149 091101Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 SSO-00 ONY-00 /030 W
-----091109Z 130182 /20

R 081738Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2140

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3149

FOR UNDER SECRETARY BENSON FROM ANDERSON

E8;O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MO, OVIP (BENSON, LUCY WILSON)
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT BY UNDER SECRETARY BENSON

REF: STATE 131429

1. YOUR PROPOSED VISIT JULY 3-6 IS GOOD NEWS INDEED.
I RECALL WITH PLEASURE OUR CONVERSATION LAST MARCH 23 AND
LOOK FORWARD TO SHOWING YOU OUR PROGRAM IN ACTION AND
TO INTRODUCING YOU TO KEY MOROCCANS. I BELIEVE WE CAN
PUT TOGETHER A GOOD PROGRAM FOR YOU AND COUNT ON YOUR
STAYING WITH US AT OUR HOUSE.

2. IN THE HIGHLY CENTRALIZED MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT THERE
ARE ONLY ONE OR TWO OFFICIALS BROADLY KNOWLEDGEABLE IN
THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE FIELD. I PROPOSE THAT YOU CALL
ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL, ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL
DEFENSE COLONEL MOHAMED ACHABAR. IN ADDITION SOMEONE OF
YOUR STATURE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SHOULD CERTAINLY
CALL ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER, AKMED LARAKI. (OUR FOURTH OF
JULY RECEPTION WOULD ALLOW YOU ALSO TO MEET A BROAD
CROSS-SECTION OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADERSHIP IN EVERY FIELD).
FINALLY, WE WOULD HOPE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR PRESENCE
TO HAVE YOU TALK TO OUR COUNTRY TEAM, WHICH IS KEENLY
INTERESTED IN SECURITY ASSISTANCE POLICIES. THE REMAINDER
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OF YOUR TIME COULD PROFITABLY BE DEVOTED TO A SIDE-TRIP
TO THE MILITARY ACADEMY AT MEKNES TO SEE HOW THE MOROCCANS
ARE USING PAST YEARS' IMET TRAINING. THE PROXIMITY OF FEZ
TO MEKNES WOULD ARGUE FOR A BRIEF STOP THERE TO SAVOR ITS
LEGENDARY SIGHTS.

3. IT WOULD BE MISLEADING TO SUGGEST THAT YOUR VISIT CAN

AVOID HAVING POLICY IMPLICATIONS AS FAR AS THE MOROCCANS ARE CONCERNED. THEY WILL LOOK TO YOU FOR AN EXPLANATION OF OUR OVERALL SECURITY ASSISTANCE POLICIES AND GUIDANCE ON SUCH PRESSING MATTERS AS IMPLEMENTATION OF MOROCCO'S FY 77 AND 78 FMS CREDIT, WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT US-ORIGIN AIRCRAFT. (THE MOROCCAN AF IS LEANING TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF A FEW A-10 AIRCRAFT AS THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO THEIR GROUND SUPPORT NEEDS).

4. WHEN YOUR PLANS ARE FIRM, PLEASE LET US KNOW SOONEST AND WE WILL START TO WORK ON YOUR PROGRAM.
ANDERSON

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